Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring data packets between a server environment and a client, said method comprising:

receiving, at a network driver device, a data packet transmitted from a stack mechanism in said server environment;

sending, from the network driver device, an acknowledgment packet to said stack mechanism without sending said acknowledgment packet across ~~said~~an I/O bus; and

after sending said acknowledgement packet, transmitting, by the network driver device, said data packet across the I/O bus in said server environment to said client.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said data packets comprise TCP/IP data packets.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing information regarding said transmitted data packet in a network interface card.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising transmitting said data packet across a network from said server environment to said client.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising said network interface card monitoring acknowledgment packets regarding said data packet from said client.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising recognizing an error condition at said network interface card if said acknowledgment packet regarding said transmitted data packet is not received from said client.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising transmitting an

indication of said error condition across said I/O bus.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method of transferring data packets between a server and a client, said method comprising:

acknowledging a data packet by a driver mechanism in said server by sending an acknowledgement packet to a stack mechanism in said server, wherein said driver mechanism is connected between said stack mechanism and an I/O bus in said server; and

after said acknowledging, transmitting by the driver mechanism said data packet across anthe I/O bus to a component of said server; and

storing information regarding said data packet at said component.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising transmitting said data packet across a network from said server to said client.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising said server component monitoring acknowledgement packet data for an acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet from said client.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising recognizing an error condition if said server component does not receive said acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet from said client.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising transmitting an indication of said error condition across said I/O bus.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said data packet is acknowledged without sending an acknowledgment packet across said I/O bus.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said data packet comprise a TCP/IP data packet.

15.   (Currently Amended) A server environment comprising:

an operating system having a stack mechanism and a driver mechanism that communicate with one another via a communication path;

a network interface card comprising a memory storing information related to a data packet; and

a I/O bus coupled between said operating system and said network interface card, wherein said driver mechanism is configured to transmit a data packet across said I/O bus to said network interface card and, prior to transmitting said data packet, said driver mechanism is configured to send an acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet to said stack mechanism via said communication path and without transmitting said acknowledgment packet across said I/O bus.

16.   (Previously Presented) The server environment of claim 15, wherein said data packet comprises a TCP/IP data packet.

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Previously Presented) The server environment of claim 15, wherein said network interface card to transmit said data packet across a network to a client.

19.   (Previously Presented) The server environment of claim 18, wherein said network interface card to monitor an acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet from said client.

20.   (Previously Presented) The server environment of claim 19, wherein said network interface card to generate an error condition if said acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet is not received from said client.

21.   (Previously Presented) The server environment of claim 20, wherein said network interface card to transmit said error condition across said I/O bus to said driver

mechanism.

22.   (Currently Amended) A network interface card in a server environment, comprising:

a mechanism to communicate across an I/O bus in the server environment so as to receive data packets from a network drive mechanism;

a memory device to store information regarding said received data packets and store a data structure containing connection information with a number of fake acknowledgement packets generated by the network drive mechanism; and

a mechanism to communicate across a network so as to transmit said received data packets to a remote system and to receive an acknowledgment packet from said remote system across said network.

23.   (Currently Amended) The network interface card of claim 22, further comprising an error indicating mechanism to recognize an error condition if said a negative acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet transmitted across said network is not received from said remote system.

24. (Previously Presented) The network interface card of claim 22, wherein said data packets comprise TCP/IP data packets.